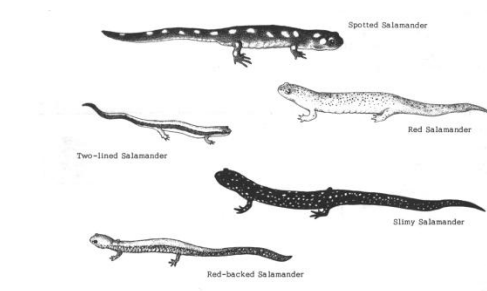


July Butterfly Counts

Each year Howard County participates in the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) July Butterfly Count. Volunteers will be conducting counts at the MPEA, David Force Park, Font Hill Park, and Centennial Park. The annual count occurs on the third Saturday of July.

Terrestrial Salamander Monitoring

Program is currently under development. Highly motivated volunteers needed. Inquire if interested.



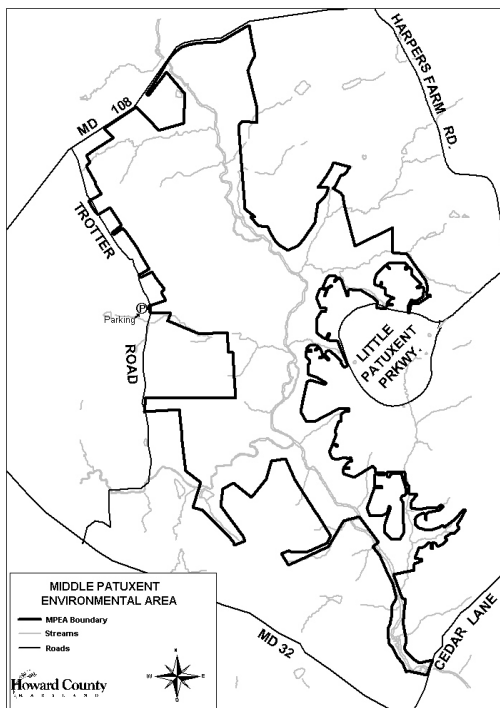
For more information on natural resource management projects or volunteer opportunities at the MPEA, contact: Cheryl Farfaras: 410-313-4726 cfarfaras@howardcountymd.gov or Jeff Claffy: jclaffy@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-6209

Source/Artist for graphics:

Morrell -- Hassinger, J. et. al. Woodlands and Wildlife.
1979. Artist: Ned Smith

Brook Trout & Salamanders -- Rader, Terry D. PA Forest
Resources Commission. Issue No. 26 & 37. 1975,
1976

Wren, Chickadee, & Spring Peeper -- DeGraff, R. M. and
Rudis, Deborah D. New England Wildlife:
Habitat, Natural History and Distribution. 1983.
Artists: Charles Joslin and Abigail Rorer



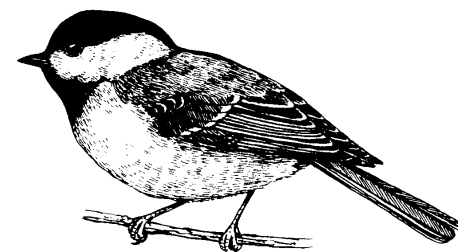
Directions to the MPEA:

From U.S. 29 at 32: Take 32 west to the Great Star Drive exit. Turn right onto Great Star Drive. Then make a right onto Summer Sunrise. Continue to Trotter Road and make a left. Proceed about 1 mile to the parking area on the right just beyond the small traffic circle.

From U.S. 29 at 108: Take 108 west and continue past Centennial Lane. Proceed past Harpers Farm Road to Trotter Road and make a left. Continue to the parking area on the left. If you reach the small traffic circle, you've gone too far.



Middle Patuxent Environmental Area



The Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA), established in 1996, is 1021 acres in size and contains a diversity of habitat types. There are upland and bottomland hardwood forest, fields, wetlands, ponds, and riparian (riverine) habitats. The primary components of the MPEA's mission are natural resource management, education, research and recreation. **Successfully delivering our mission depends on the efforts of volunteers such as you!**

Volunteer Program Summary

The mission of the MPEA volunteer program is to increase citizen interest and participation in the management of the Area's natural resources. We aim to accomplish this mission by providing opportunities for environmental education and outdoor recreation through volunteer project activities.



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

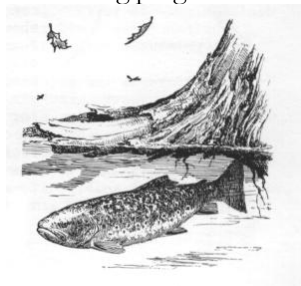
Trail Maintenance Programs

There are 5.4 miles of hiking trails in the MPEA. Volunteers are needed to assist with the maintenance of these primitive, foot-traffic only trails. Most of the trail work consists of pruning back vegetation that encroaches upon the trail system. The basis for all of our trail maintenance is found in our trail management protocol. Participants may choose to attend GROUP WORK SESSIONS supervised by MPEA staff or attend mandatory training classes to become an INDEPENDENT TRAIL MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER.



Stream Monitoring

The MPEA runs the length of the Middle Patuxent River, south from Route 108 to Route 32. Additionally, there are 17 tributary streams that flow into the river within the Environmental Area. Monitoring water quality in these streams is essential to our natural resource management goals. Volunteers will monitor sites at least once annually. Currently recruiting for individuals who are interested in initiating a monitoring program.



Frogwatch USA

Considering the worldwide decline in amphibian populations, collecting information on frogs and toads in an environmental area surrounded by development is an important step in understanding how human activities impact our environment. The MPEA contains 3 ponds and several additional frog and toad breeding areas. Volunteers can help by agreeing to monitor a site within the MPEA twice-monthly from March through July. This program also requires for participants to enter the data they collect into the online database for the nationwide Frogwatch USA program.



Invasive Species Control Programs

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

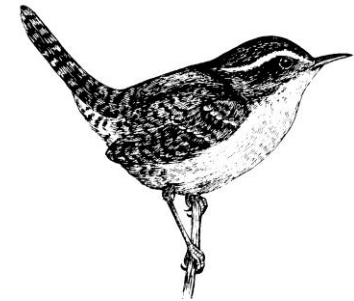
Invasions of non-native, invasive plants are the second greatest threat to native species after direct habitat destruction. A working partnership with the Howard County Master Gardeners has been formed to tackle invasive plants in the MPEA. Monthly invasive species control work days will be scheduled for February through November, on the 4th Tuesday of each month, skipping July & August.



WEED WARRIORS

Qualified volunteers are taught about the identification and control methods for non-native, invasive plants. Upon completion of mandatory training classes, participants are assigned tasks to complete independently. Weed Warriors must be comfortable working alone or in small groups and also adhere to strict guidelines.

Nest Box Monitoring



There are currently 22 nest boxes in the MPEA that were installed for use by bluebirds and other native, cavity-nesting birds. We utilize volunteers to monitor and maintain these boxes in our wildlife clearing areas, Clegg's meadow, and other grassland restoration plots. Volunteer Box Monitors must also enter the data they collect into the Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch online database.